

The United States Navy Memorial Foundation

Conveniently located on Pennsylvania Avenue – halfway between the White House and the Capitol, the United States Navy Memorial provides a living tribute to Navy people and a place for them to gather and celebrate their service. The outdoor plaza features a “Granite Sea” map of the world, towering masts with signal flags, fountain pools and waterfalls and The Lone Sailor® statue. Adjacent to the plaza is the Naval Heritage Center, where visitors can find educational displays about the contributions of the men and women of the Sea Services (Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine). Also housed in the Naval Heritage Center is the Navy Log – the online place for Navy people to preserve the memories of their service. Call (202) 737-2300 or visit www.navymemorial.org for more information.

The United States Department of Defense 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemorative Committee

The Department of Defense 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee, authorized in the 2011 Defense Authorization Bill, is dedicated to thanking and honoring all the Veterans of the Korean War, their families and especially those who lost loved ones in that war. During the next three years, the Committee will honor the service and sacrifice of Korean War Veterans, commemorate the key events of the war, and educate Americans of all ages about the historical significance of the Korean War.

The Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress American Folklife Center

Congress created the Veterans History Project in 2000 as a national documentation program of the Library of Congress American Folklife Center to collect, preserve and make accessible the first-hand remembrances of American wartime veterans from World War I through the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war. The project relies on volunteers to record veterans’ remembrances using guidelines accessible at www.loc.gov/vets.

University of Central Florida Community Veterans History Project

The UCF Community Veterans History Project (UCFCVHP) is an ambitious effort by the second largest university in the nation to help preserve the firsthand remembrances of veterans and contribute their stories to the Library of Congress. UCFCVHP is part of the Regional Initiative for Collecting the History, Experiences and Stories of Central Florida (RICHES), a program of the UCF History Department.

Film producers, coordinators and others integral to this event:

- Dr. Alzo Reddick, Director, Soldiers to Scholars, University of Central Florida
- Anthony B. Major, Associate Professor, Program Director, Zora Neale Hurston Institute for Documentary Studies; Film Director, University of Central Florida
- Alfred G. Harms, Jr. Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.), Vice President for Strategy, Marketing, Communications and Admissions and Special Assistant to the President, University of Central Florida
- Valada Parker Flewellyn of EYEESEEIMAGES. EYEESEEIMAGES specializes in photography, videography and graphic design; and takes pride in collaborating with individuals and organizations to collect, document, preserve, and present the African American presence in our global history.
- Tim Holbert of American Veterans Center. Through documentary work, speaker programs and publications, the American Veterans Center works to preserve and promote the legacy of America’s servicemen and women from World War II through Operation Iraqi Freedom.

University of Central Florida, College of Arts and Humanities: Zora Neale Hurston Institute for Documentary Studies

The documentary film “Jesse Leroy Brown: First African-American Navy Fighter Pilot” was produced by the Zora Institute in cooperation with the University of Central Florida Soldiers To Scholars Program. The vision of the Zora Neale Hurston Institute for Documentary Studies is to bring a world focus to the theory and practice of forms of storytelling, cinematic expression, research and programs that encourage civic engagement and meaningfully address the work of excluded communities to preserve cultural legacy using an arts, culture and humanities framework that is located outside the interests of the mainstream.



FILM SCREENING and PANEL DISCUSSION honoring
ENSIGN JESSE L. BROWN
FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN NAVY FIGHTER PILOT

and commemorating the
ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTEGRATION OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES
in the CENTENNIAL OF NAVAL AVIATION
Moderator: Medal of Honor Recipient Captain Thomas J. Hudner, Jr., U.S. Navy (Ret.)



THURSDAY, JULY 28, 6:00-8:00 PM
UNITED STATES NAVY MEMORIAL BURKE THEATER
701 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest, Washington, D.C.

NOVEMBER 14, 1910

Civilian pilot, Eugene B. Ely, makes the first flight to take off from a ship, the USS BIRMINGHAM, from a wooden platform. The ship was at anchor in Hampton Roads, Virginia and Ely landed safely on the Willoughby Spit.

JUNE 30, 1943

Oscar Holmes enters the Navy as a qualified pilot and is designated a Naval Aviator. While not known to the Navy at the time, Holmes is an African-American and becomes the first African- American to wear Navy wings of gold.

JULY 26, 1948

President Harry Truman issues Executive Order 9981 directing the U.S. Armed Forces to provide “equality of treatment and opportunity for all personnel without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin” and establishes a presidential committee to monitor compliance.

OCTOBER 1948

Ensign Jesse Brown makes history becoming the first known African American to complete U.S. Navy basic flight training for pilot qualification, be designated a Naval Aviator, and go on to fly combat missions. Ensign Brown serves with Fighter Squadron 32.

JUNE 25, 1950

The North Korean Army begins an offensive to invade South Korea that results in the capture of the republic’s capital, Seoul, within four days. The United States, the United Kingdom and other members of the United Nations move to actively defend South Korea – an effort that lasts until July 27, 1953, when armistice negotiations conclude and fighting finally ends.



ABOUT JESSE LEROY BROWN



During the Korean War, Ensign Jesse Leroy Brown navigated a racially segregated Navy to become the first known African-American to complete Navy flight training and go on to fly combat missions as a Naval Aviator. Letters to his wife, Mrs. Daisy Brown, document his recurring concern for those fighting on the front lines. Ensign Brown wrote in his last letter, dated December 3, 1950, “Knowing that he’s helping those poor guys on the ground, I think every pilot here would fly until he dropped in his tracks.”

On December 4, 1950, Ensign Brown’s plane was hit by enemy fire and crash-landed at Chosin Reservoir. Brown was pinned in his aircraft. Wingman, Lieutenant Thomas J. Hudner, Jr. force-landed his

fighter plane and attempted at length, in severe cold, to rescue Brown. Ensign Brown died, and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his combat service. For his actions, Hudner received the first Navy Medal of Honor awarded in the Korean War.

The convergence of the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War, the 2011 Centennial of Naval Aviation, and the July 26, 1948 anniversary of integration of the U.S. Armed Forces, create an opportune moment for reflection on this historic narrative.

This special event is presented by the United States Navy Memorial Foundation, the United States Department of Defense 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee, the Library of Congress Veterans History Project, and the Zora Neale Hurston Institute for Documentary Studies, College of Arts & Humanities, University of Central Florida, where the film was produced.

PROGRAM

Welcome

Rear Admiral Edward K. Walker, Jr., United States Navy (Ret.); President and CEO, United States Navy Memorial Foundation

Invocation

Chaplain Dwayne Jackson, United States Navy

Introduction of Co-Hosts

Captain Rob Williams, United States Navy (Ret.); Chief, Office of Contracts Management, Library of Congress

Opening Remarks

Colonel David J. Clark, Director, United States Department of Defense 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee

Introduction to Film

Dr. Alzo Reddick, Director, Soldiers to Scholars, University of Central Florida; Film Producer

Film Screening: Jesse Leroy Brown: First African-American Navy Fighter Pilot

Introduction of Medal of Honor Recipient Captain Thomas J. Hudner, Jr., U.S. Navy (Ret.)

Mark Weber, Curator, United States Navy Memorial Foundation

Panel Discussion

Light Reception

PANELISTS

Moderator: Medal of Honor and Lone Sailor Award Recipient

Captain Thomas J. Hudner, Jr., U.S. Navy (Ret.)

Captain Thomas J. Hudner, Jr. was decorated for his attempt to rescue Ensign J.L. Brown on December 4, 1950.

The Honorable B.J. Penn

The Honorable B.J. Penn was Assistant Secretary of the Navy from 2005-2009 and served as Acting Secretary of the Navy in 2009. Penn began his career as a Naval Aviator.

Lieutenant Commander Roland M. Christensen, U.S. Navy (Ret.)

Lieutenant Commander Christensen was Ensign J.L. Brown’s first Flight Instructor at Naval Air Station Glenview.

Captain Robert O. Blackington, U.S. Navy (Ret.)

Captain Blackington was a shipmate on the U.S.S. Leyte with Ensign J.L. Brown.

Jamal Knight

A senior applications engineer in the oil and gas industry, Mr. Knight is the grandson of Ensign J.L. Brown.

Valada Parker Flewellyn

Mrs. Flewellyn is a nationally recognized author, poet, storyteller, and curator of the exhibit, “A Pilot Lights the Way: A Tribute to Jesse Leroy Brown & Blacks in Aviation” at the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Florida.